



MINUTES

The May meeting of the Transportation Technical Committee was held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sexton called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL (including consideration of remote participation)

Bryan Hill called the roll and stated a quorum was present.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Marief Fowler	County of Bedford
Jonathan McCoy	County of Botetourt
Megan Cronise	County of Roanoke
Isaac Henry (<i>arrived after roll call</i>)	County of Roanoke
Wayne Leftwich	City of Roanoke
Crystal Williams	City of Salem
Josh Pratt	City of Salem
Anita McMillan	Town of Vinton
Cody Sexton, <i>Chair</i>	Town of Vinton
William Long (<i>arrived after roll call</i>)	Greater Roanoke Transit Company
Frank Maguire, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
Michael Gray	Virginia Dept. of Transportation - Salem District

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Baker	County of Botetourt
Dan Brugh	County of Montgomery
Dwayne D'Ardenne	City of Roanoke
Kyle Kotchou	Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport
Nathan Sanford	Unified Human Serv. Transp. System (RADAR)
Daniel Wagner	Virginia Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Jones	Federal Highway Administration
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Others Present: Steve Sandy, Franklin County; Stephanie Mathena, Franklin County; Max Dillon, City of Salem; and Ken McLeod, League of Bicyclists.

TPO POLICY BOARD: Cities of Roanoke and Salem; Counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Montgomery and Roanoke; Town of Vinton; Greater Roanoke Transit Company (*Valley Metro*); Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport; Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation; Virginia Department of Transportation

RVARC Staff Present: Bryan Hill, Alison Stinnette, Jonathan Stanton, Jeremy Holmes, and Virginia Mullen.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following consent agenda items were distributed earlier:

- A. May 11, 2023 TTC Meeting Agenda
- B. April 13, 2023 TTC Minutes

Megan Cronise proposed the following change to the minutes on page 5 of the agenda packet:

b. Decrease Roanoke River Greenway through Explore Park funding by \$1,275,000 for total of ~~\$3,0020,308~~ \$3,020,308.

Motion: by Jonathan McCoy to approve consent agenda items (A), as presented and (B), as amended; seconded by Anita McMillan.

TTC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

4. CHAIR REMARKS

No remarks were made.

5. PEDAL SAFE ROANOKE: BIKE MONTH ACTIVITIES

Mr. Ken McLeod announced the following bike month activities for the month of May:

- May 6th, PedalSafe Roanoke hosted a Bike Rodeo at the Melrose Library Parking Lot. A Bike Rodeo is a bicycle skills event for children. Helmets and other safety equipment were distributed to children as part of the event.
- May 8th, PedalSafe Roanoke hosted a public meeting with Virginia Tech Professor Ralph Buehler at Virginia Tech Carillon. Professor Buehler is internationally known for his scholarship on bicycling and his most recent book, *Cycling for Sustainable Cities*, shows how to make city cycling safe, practical, and convenient for all ages and abilities.
- May 17th, the Regional Commission's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will meet from 3:00 pm. - 5:00 pm. A major action item for the meeting is reviewing the current efforts to update the bicycle (last updated in 2012) and pedestrian (last updated in 2015) plans with an Active Transportation Plan.
- May 17th, the 16th Annual 'Ride of Silence' event will be held in Radford, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Radford City Administrative Services Building. In 2021, bicyclist deaths hit their highest level since 1975 and early estimates show them continuing to increase in 2022. Between 2017-2021, Virginia averaged 12 bicyclist deaths per year.

- May 19th, PedalSafe Roanoke and Ride Solutions are hosting Bike To Work Day events. Coffee and Donuts stations will be available before 9 am. for Bike Commuters at the following locations:

 - Shenandoah Ave & 5th Street NW - Twisted Track Brewpub Parking lot

 - 3rd Street and Campbell Ave - City of Roanoke Municipal Building

 - 13th Street and Hannan Cir - Black Dog Salvage

- May 22nd there will be a memorial cleanup of Riverside Drive near Green Hill Park in Salem in memory of Tabitha Thompson, who was killed while riding her bike on Route 11 in Botetourt County last year. There is a facebook event and people will meet in Green Hill Park at 6:00pm.

- May 24th (8:30 - 5:00) and May 25 (8:30 - 1:00), there will be a Pedestrian Road Safety Assessment (RSA) for the City of Roanoke - Melrose Community Center access roads conducted by the VDOT PATHS program (Prioritizing Active Transportation, Health, and Safety).

- May 25th, there will be a Fancy Bike Brigade starting at Cardinal Bicycle in Grandin. This is an approximately 10-mile ride in fancy attire. The ride will start to congregate at 5:30pm. and will leave at 6:00pm.

- June 12th, there will be a PedalSafe ROA public meeting at the Downtown Roanoke Library from 6:00pm. - 7:30pm.

Wayne Leftwich asked staff to email the list of events to Committee members.

6. UPDATE ON 2020 CENSUS AND ROANOKE URBANIZED AREA CHANGES

Jonathan Stanton presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Census and Roanoke Urbanized Area update (the presentation is included with the Minutes). Each decennial Census, urban and rural areas are defined and calculated. The final definitions and areas are used by Federal, State, Regional, and Local agencies when applying policies, grants, and funding across the United States. The 2020 Census changed the minimum population threshold for urbanized areas, increasing the minimum population from 2,500 to 5,000. The 2020 Census also added a minimum housing unit qualification of 2,000 housing units for areas such as seasonal towns. The effects of changes to qualifying and threshold values on the Roanoke urbanized area are minor for the urban core but resulted in changes to the boundary areas of the urban area. The biggest census change is that the small portion of Montgomery County (outlined in Mr. Stanton's PowerPoint presentation) is no longer urbanized and would not be included as part of the RVTPO study area boundary. Michael Gray suggested staff to look into how other Virginia MPO's are handling similar situations.

Steve Sandy commented that Franklin County would like to become a non-voting member of the RVTPO. Mr. Hill added that, per the bylaws, interested parties can be invited to become a non-voting member. Additionally, Mr. Hill mentioned that staff would be coordinating in the future with Franklin County to request the RVTPO Policy Board for non-voting status.

Ms. Cronise commented that the red line shown in Mr. Stanton's presentation with the TPO boundary should be adjusted a little bit so the whole interstate (not just the northbound lanes) is in the urban area. Mr. Hill asked members to let staff know of any other changes and recommendations.

Chair Sexton commented that if this body would be inclined to invite Franklin County as a non-voting member, and if the TPO boundary would change to no longer include Montgomery County, then Montgomery County should be invited back as a non-voting member on the RVTPO.

7. FY25-26 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM APPLICATION CYCLE UPDATE

Mr. Hill reported the following policy changes to the Transportation Alternatives are currently in discussion by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB):

- Moving toward a fully funded project policy - the current policy is that there is a 50% minimum of the federal funding request.
- Statewide allocation prioritization strategy - for the projects that are canceled, completed or there are surplus funds, there will be a redistribution based on prioritization process.
- Currently, the CTB has \$1 million per VDOT construction district to allocate - it is proposed to allocate the funds based on percentage to make it more equitable.
- For populations with less than 200,000 there is a pre-application limit of 5 and full application limit of 2. For populations with more than 200,000 the pre-application limit is 8 and the full application limit is 5.
- Pre-application period opens on May 15, 2023 and closes on June 30, 2023. Pre-applications later reopen on August 15; full applications are due by October 2nd.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

9. COMMENTS BY MEMBERS AND / OR CITIZENS

Chair Sexton reminded that VDOT's spring meeting is Tuesday, May 16th at 4:00 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center Community Room (1001 Roanoke Blvd., Salem VA 24153).

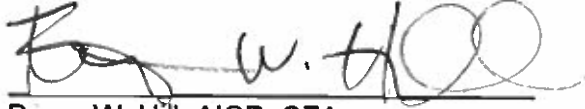
Josh Pratt introduced Max Dillon, Transportation Planner with the City of Salem, and noted that Mr. Dillon will be serving as an alternate member on the TTC, representing the City of Salem.

William Long announced that Valley Metro will have two ribbon cuttings coming up - on May 17th in Vinton and June 14th in Roanoke.

Jeremy Holmes noted that the Regional Commission is currently hiring a Transportation Director and a Transportation Planner. Mr. Holmes thanked Chair Sexton and Mr. Gray for serving on the hiring team.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan W. Hill", written over a horizontal line.

Bryan W. Hill, AICP, CZA,
Interim Secretary, Transportation Technical Committee

2020 Census Urbanized Area update



Roanoke Valley Transportation
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Staffed by the
REGIONAL commission

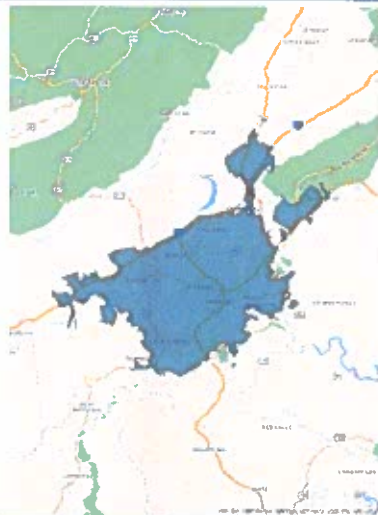
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Background

- Urbanized Areas (UA's) updated with every decennial census
- Urbanized areas impact FTA, grant, and other federal funding opportunities



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Roanoke Urbanized Area demographics

- Population grew by 3.4%:
210,111 (2010) to 217,312 (2020)
- Population Density (people per square mile) grew by 2.3%:
1,692.0 (2010) to 1,731.6 (2020)

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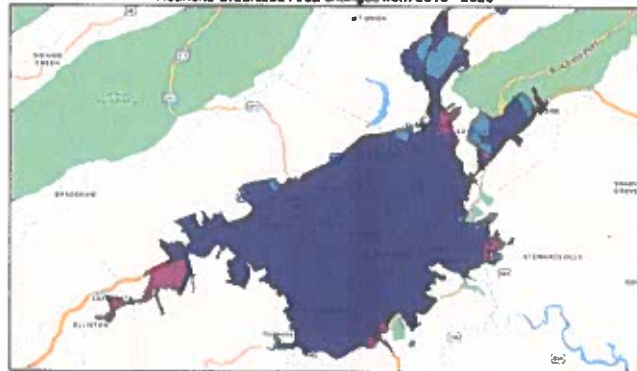
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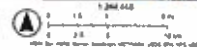
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Changes to the 2020 Urbanized Area

Roanoke Urbanized Area changes from 2010 - 2020



5-4-2023
2020 UZAs 2010 UZAs
2020s - 1 mi 2020s - 1mi



<https://www.transit.dot.gov/ntd/fta-census-map>

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2020 Census UA Definition

- Minimum threshold for urbanized area changed from 2,500 people to 5,000 people or 2,000 housing units
- Changes to delineating urban areas; primarily moving from population per square mile to housing units per square mile

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2020 Census UA Definition

- Initial urban core: at least 425 housing units per square mile. Changed from 1,000 people per square mile (2010)
- Remainder of urban area: at least 200 housing units per square mile. Changed from 500 people per square mile (2010)
- Change from population density to housing density similar when using national average of 2.6 people per housing unit

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2020 Census UA Definition

- Urban areas above or below 50,000 people not longer differentiated (previously classified as urbanized areas or urban clusters)

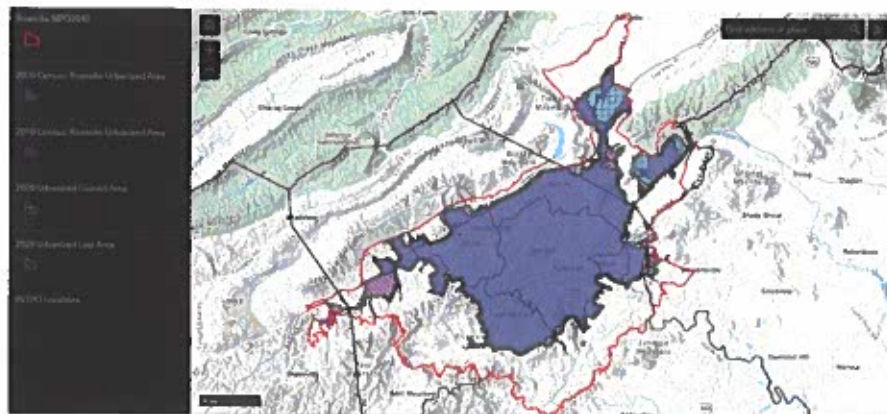
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2020 Census UA and TPO boundary



[RVTPO 2020 Census Map](#)

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2020 Census UA notable changes

- Area abutting Montgomery County no longer urbanized
- Expanded urban areas in Botetourt around Daleville & Laymantown
- Growth and Shrinkage of urban areas in Roanoke County east of Vinton and BRP
- Shrinkage of urban area around US220 and BRP

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End

Questions?
Comments?

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